

IN THE CLAIMS

Upon entry of the present amendment, the status of the claims will be as is shown below. This listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in the present application.

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A tapping device, comprising:

a tap holder, provided in a vertically movable shank body which can be freely attached to a rotating mold indexing device rotatably provided at a punch press ~~so as to be movable in the vertical direction~~, the tap holder having a tap at ~~its~~ a lower end and being provided so as to be movable ~~only in the~~ a vertical direction and urged upwards; and

a downward movement transmitter for receiving and transmitting downward motion of a ram provided at the punch press so as to be movable in the vertical direction to the tap holder, the downward movement transmitter being at an upper part of the shank body.

4. (Original) A tapping device according to claim 3, wherein a workpiece brace is rotatably provided at a lower end of the shank body.

5. (Previously Presented) A tapping device according to claim 4, wherein an oil channel for guiding oil supplied from the ram to the tap is provided in the downward movement transmitter and the tap holder.

6. (Previously Presented) A tapping device according to claim 5, wherein an elastic member which can freely transmit downward motion of the ram is provided at the downward movement transmitter to lower the tap holder against upward energizing force of the tap holder.

7. (Currently Amended) A tapping device, comprising:

a tap holder provided in a vertically movable shank body which can be freely attached to a rotating mold indexing device rotatably provided at a punch press ~~so as to be movable in the vertical direction~~, the tap holder having a tap at ~~its~~ a lower end and being provided so as to be movable only in ~~the~~ a vertical direction and urged upwards; and

a downward movement transmitter for receiving and transmitting downward motion of a ram provided at the punch press so as to be movable in the vertical direction to the tap holder; wherein

the downward movement transmitter has a pressing device for pressing the tap holder downwards by fluid pressure supplied from the ram and a shock absorber.

8. (Original) A tapping device according to claim 7, wherein a workpiece brace is rotatably provided at a lower end of the shank body.

9. (Previously Presented) A tapping device according to claim 8, wherein an oil channel for guiding oil supplied from the ram to the tap is provided in the downward movement transmitter and the tap holder.

10. (Previously Presented) A tapping device according to claim 9, wherein an elastic member which can freely transmit downward motion of the ram is provided at the downward movement transmitter to lower.